



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 8 – San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE ROUTE 18 (THE NARROWS) REOPENS

San Bernardino County – After being closed over eight months, Caltrans announces that the storm-damaged section of State Route 18 known as the “Narrows” will reopen Friday August 26, 2005. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. The route will reopen to the public at approximately 2:00 p.m. thereafter. The public is invited to attend the “*On The Road Again*” celebration, which will take place at the junction of 18/138 by the closure gate at the Narrows. Caltrans and the Southern California Lakes Chambers of Commerce will host the event.

The “Narrows” closed early January 2005 after falling victim to winter storms, resulting in substantial damage to several sections of SR-18. Almost \$2 million in emergency funds were spent for a variety of repairs. Some of the work included damaged guardrail and sign replacement, drain and culvert repair, along with several slope rebuilds and new pavement. One of the rebuilt slopes was 185 feet long, 40 feet wide and 60 feet deep and required 444,000 cubic yards of soil. The contractor, Matich Corporation, has worked extended hours under extreme conditions since January. Severe weather and continuous shifting of the hillside prolonged the needed repairs.

Attendees are encouraged to carpool to the event since parking is limited. Local dignitaries, Caltrans employees and local merchants will be present to share in the long-awaited reopening of SR-18. Senator Dutton, Assemblyman Mountjoy and County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger have been invited to speak at the event.

Photo opportunities will be available for the media.

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